GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2222
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2002
WATERSHED COMPONENT OF EAS
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development in its Report No.22 of 2001 on pages 20-21, Para No.3.15 have stated that the outlay of the Department has remained stagnant with minor adjustments and quoted the example of watershed component of EAS under which the outlay reduced after merging the scheme with Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to bring changes there;

(c) whether the Committee recommended to hand over the implementation of IWDP to Panchayati Raj Institutions; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon to improve IWDP?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) Funds for programmes are always subject to budgetary limitations. Department of Land Resources has tried to get enhanced allocations for Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP).There has been consistent increase in the allocation and release of funds under IWDP as can be seen from the table below: 8th Five Year Plan

Year	Central Allocation(Rs. in crores)	Funds Released(Rs. in crores)
1992-93	16.83	16.83
1993-94	40.72	44.49
1994-95	49.20	53.04
1995-96	49.50	51.00
1996-97	50.50	50.80
Total	206.75	216.16

9th Five Year Plan

Year	Central Allocation (Rs. in crores)	Funds Released(Rs. in crores)
1997-98	50.00	53.95
1998-99	62.10	62.00
1999-2000	82.00	83.07
2000-2001	130.00	129.78
2001-2002	210.00	186.00
Total	534.10	514.80

Funds have also been provided by the Department of Land Resources for completing the watershed projects taken up under EAS prior to 1.4.99 consequent upon the decision to retain Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) mainly as a Wage Employment Scheme and discontinuing sanctioning of new watershed development projects under EAS w.e.f. 1.4.99.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Guidelines for Watershed Development have already been revised in 2001 envisaging a greater role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).As per Revised Guidelines PRIs are entitled to take on the responsibility of implementing a cluster of watershed project in the capacity of Project Implementation Agencies. It has also been envisaged that PRIs shall have the right to monitor and review the implementation of the programme and provide guidance for improvements in the administrative arrangements and procedures. At the village level, the Gram Panchayat shall be fully involved in the implementation of the programme, specially community organisation and training programmes. It may use its administrative authority and financial resources to support and encourage the formation of Self Help Groups/User Groups, the operation and maintenance of the assets created during project period and the common property resources such as pasture lands, fisheries tanks, plantations on village common lands etc. The Gram Panchayat may review and discuss the progress of watershed development programme in its meetings.